

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment adds three new claims which were formerly part of the scope of the claims from which they now depend. This Amendment removes all (proper and improper) multiple dependencies that were in the originally amended claims pending in the International application. The purpose of these amendments was to render the claim set formally correct and reduce the extra claim fees. Certain amendments were intended to improve the English usage and, thereby, the clarity of the claims, without changing or adding to the meaning. Support for the amendments is found in the original claims.

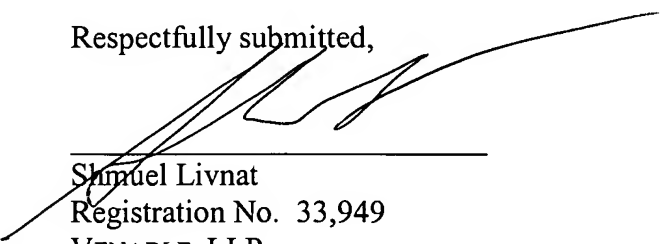
No new matter is introduced by these amendments. Claims 1-20 are now pending, and the application is in condition for examination on the merits.

If any questions remain, the Examiner or other PTO official is encouraged to call the undersigned at (202) 344-8584 to expedite this application.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 22-0261**. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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